



## NUUANU/ PUNCHBOWL NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 12

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 400 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813  
PHONE (808) 527-5749 • FAX (808) 527-5760 • INTERNET: <http://www.honolulu.gov>

### **MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2006 BOOTH DISTRICT PARK**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Canopin called the meeting to order at 7:21 p.m. with six (6) members present, which did not constitute a quorum. He distributed packets to each Board member containing the reports of the emergency service agencies and public representatives, and other assorted items necessary to complete the evening's agenda.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mason Aiona, Dean Asahina (arrived at 7:30 p.m.), Al Canopin, Jr., Audrey Hidano, Paula Kurashige, Remy Luria (arrived at 7:23 p.m.), Philip Nerney, Patt Spencer.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** James Bannan, Richard Carreira, Rae Gee, Wendy Ogawa Young, Sylvia Young.

**GUESTS:** Capt. J. Yoshimoto (Honolulu Fire Department); Sgt. C. Calicdan, Lt. C. Loui (Honolulu Police Department – District 1); Sgt. G. Costa, Sgt. J. Simmons (Honolulu Police Department – District 5); Bobby Aisaka (Representative Corinne Ching's Office staff); Sue Berg (Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland's Office staff); Paul Smith; Rachel M. Glanstein (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

**VACANCIES:** There were no interested persons to fill the vacancies in either Subdistrict 1 or Subdistrict 2. The seat in Subdistrict 3 could not yet be declared vacant, since there was no quorum (quorum is eight (8) members).

### **FIRE AND POLICE:**

**HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT** – Capt. J. Yoshimoto provided the following information:

- 1) March statistics – 7 structure and 1 rubbish fire; 29 medical, 1 search/rescue and 8 miscellaneous emergencies.
- 2) Fire Safety Tip – Cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and the second major cause of death among older adults. If you are cooking and must leave the kitchen, even for only a few minutes, turn off the stove. Keep a fire extinguisher (with a minimum rating of 2A10BC) in or near your kitchen and learn how to use it. Inspect the fire extinguisher regularly to ensure that it has not expired.

Remy Luria arrived during the above report at 7:23 p.m., making seven (7) members present.

Spencer questioned what had happened with regard to the overturned vehicle in the 2400 block of Pacific Heights Road in mid-February. Capt. Yoshimoto will follow up.

### **HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT (HPD) –**

**District 1, Honolulu:** Sgt. C. Calicdan relayed the following information –

- 1) March/February statistics: 0/0 robberies, 3/2 burglaries, 3/5 unauthorized entries into a motor vehicle (UEMVs), 3/8 auto thefts, 0/1 aggravated assaults, 0/1 simple assaults, 34/35 motor vehicle collisions (MVCs), 0/0 driving under the influence (DUIs), 0/0 sex assaults, 1/3 family offenses, 1/1 drug offenses, 1/0 graffiti offenses.
- 2) HPD asks people to provide as much information as possible when reporting a crime.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

- 1) Nerney recounted that his grandson's jaw was broken. He gave the detective the name of the suspect, a probable address gleaned from the Internet, but there has been no progress on the investigation. Nerney



inquired what more information is required to catch criminals. Sgt. Calicdan advised him to call again and speak to the supervisor.

Dean Asahina arrived during the above comments at 7:30 p.m., making eight (8) members present, which constitutes a quorum.

- 2) Bobby Aisaka, from Representative Corinne Ching's office, asked how to contact a detective. Sgt. Calicdan replied that the front desk at the district station will transfer a call for a detective.
- 3) Aiona thanked HPD for the presence of police cruisers in his neighborhood recently. Sgt. Calicdan explained that they are monitoring the dumping of cars on Kaneali'i Avenue; he added that there are only 12 abandoned vehicle inspectors to serve the whole island.
- 4) Spencer followed a police cruiser turning into Stevenson Intermediate School's parking lot, going around the island in the lot, and then making an illegal left turn out of the lot. Sgt. Calicdan will discuss it with the day watch sergeant. Spencer also contended that pedestrians need to take some responsibility when using the road and look both ways before stepping off a curb; she pointed out that one of HPD's own promotions shows pedestrians not looking before stepping off curbs.
- 5) Kurashige stressed the importance of receiving feedback from HPD. Chair Canopin recommended that any concerns be given to him before the meeting so he can try to get answers before the meeting.

**District 5, Kalihi:** Sgt. G. Costa reported the following – March/February statistics: 0/0 sex offenses, 0/1 robberies, 3/2 burglaries, 7/9 thefts, 10/8 UEMVs, 1/23 motor vehicle thefts (23 is incorrect, but he didn't have the correct statistic), 4/1 assaults, 4/0 property damages, 0/0 drugs/narcotics, 1/0 family offenses, 4/0 DUIs, 16/23 MVCs, and 10/4 arguments. He noted that Sgt. Byron Anaya handles the Neighborhood Security Watches here.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

- 1) Nerney expressed the same concern about the lack of progress/feedback from HPD on cases, his grandson's in particular. Sgt. Costa advised him to call and talk to the supervisor if he's dissatisfied with the work. Nerney specified that he's not discouraged with HPD as a whole. Sgt. Costa thanked him and requested that he just keep reporting what he sees.
- 2) Kurashige inquired about the burglaries last week Tuesday in lower Dowsett where the burglars entered a house while the tenants were sleeping. She let Sgt. Anaya know about it but has received no feedback. Kurashige continued to convey her concern about more burglaries to the same house and others. Sgt. Costa responded that those types of burglaries happen all over the island; this is just the first time it's happened in this area recently.
- 3) Kurashige would like Neighborhood Security Watch signs to put up in the area. Paul Smith stated that he was told that they couldn't put up the signs until the watch members prove their commitment; he asked how they prove their commitment. Sgt. Costa replied that he should contact Sgt. Anaya directly. Chair Canopin imparted that Sgt. Anaya will be providing Kurashige with a copy of the ordinances (41-23.1 through 41.23.5) that outline the procedures to request new Neighborhood Security Watch signs. Call Sgt. Anaya at 845-0950 with any questions.

Sgt. Costa requested that questions and concerns be emailed to him at [gcosta@honolulu.gov](mailto:gcosta@honolulu.gov) and he'll try to get the answers before the next meeting.

**HAWAII LITERACY ADULT PROGRAM:** This item was deferred.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF A TIME-LIMIT POLICY:** This item was deferred.

**APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 21, 2006 MINUTES:** The minutes were approved by unanimous consent with the following corrections –

- \* Page 6 – Resolution 06-089 – strike out "18" after "Ordinance 86-" and insert "108".

- \* Page 6 – Bill 37 – insert "(2006)" after the two instances of "Bill 37".
- \* Page 6 – Resolution to Request the State of Hawaii to Provide... – last sentence – after "Nerney explained that," and before "Nuuanu Valley," strike out "being keeping the limited scope of" and insert "keeping the scope limited to".

**TREASURER'S REPORTS:** Secretary/Treasurer Spencer reported the following amounts for March – The Operating Account expenses were \$56.45, leaving a balance of \$991.07. The Publicity Account had no expenses, leaving a balance of \$1,298.00. The Refreshment Account expenses were \$73.86, leaving a balance of \$46.14.

**MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

**COUNCILMEMBER ROD TAM** – Aiona read the following message: Aloha! During the April Public Works and Economic Development Committee meeting, which Councilmember Tam chairs, there will be a presentation on the use of microorganisms to clean streams. Due to the recent heavy rains, many of our streams have become polluted due to sewage spills and cesspool overflows. The use of microorganisms may be an environmentally safe solution to eliminate harmful bacteria in streams. He intends to investigate this option in terms of its feasibility of implementation. Currently, Council is working on finalizing the FY 2007 budget. Councilmember Tam will continue to do his best to prioritize the City's funds for the community's health and safety needs, road maintenance and other core services provided by the City. If Councilmember Tam can be of assistance to you, please feel free to call him at 547-7006. If you wish to receive his monthly newsletter by email, please call his assistant, Shawn Hamamoto, at 527-5570. Mahalo.

**SENATOR SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND** – Asahina read the following message: On behalf of the Board, Sen. Chun Oakland has submitted a number of high-interest resolutions. The Pali Lookout Resolution seeks to ban all commercialism from this sacred site. A Senate Concurrent Resolution urges the City to proceed with caution in reviewing developments on steep hillsides with potential rock-fall hazards. She is following frequent monitoring of the Nu'uuanu Reservoir dam by the Board of Water Supply (BWS). Sen. Chun Oakland also asked the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to assist Pauoa residents with problems, like rock-falls, that have resulted from the rain and is monitoring their progress as well. A "neighborhood aloha gathering" is being planned for the new owner of the Mark's Estate. Neighbors along Niniko Street are welcoming the new owner to the neighborhood; listening to his plans for the preservation and restoration of the property and buildings; and expressing their intent, as a neighborhood, to work together with him for the mutual benefit of the neighborhood.

**REPRESENTATIVE CORINNE CHING** – Luria read the following message: Rep. Ching is pleased to announce the release of funds for the Kawananakoa School's Music Building. These funds will be used for an expansion that will provide approximately 850 additional square feet for instrument storage. Existing portions of the music building will be renovated to provide practice rooms. These repairs will further enhance the quality of music education at Kawananakoa. As the end of the legislative session nears, Rep. Ching's initiatives advance and important pieces of law approach their final forms. She hopes that people will save the week of May 1 to May 3 for the Historic Preservation Awareness celebration events at the State Capitol and elsewhere.

Discussion ensued about the messages to the community from elected officials:

- 1) Luria asked why the messages had to be read aloud. Nerney inquired why the Board could not just approve what the Neighborhood Assistant transcribes. Chair Canopin answered that the Neighborhood Commission Office objected to sending out political messages.
- 2) Nerney asked if there is a reason why elected officials don't send representatives to the meetings anymore. Chair Canopin explained that he established a procedure where the elected officials may submit their materials and not have to attend the meetings, in deference to their busy schedules; any concerns will be forwarded to the appropriate parties through the inventory of concerns. Chair Canopin indicated that they can attend if they are needed to give a specific presentation. Nerney's impression was that the Board gave elected officials the opportunity to present in writing, but didn't prohibit their presence at meetings. He conveyed his desire to speak with City officials, like the Mayor's representative. Chair Canopin responded that reports by elected officials consume the meeting time, which makes it hard for the Board to accomplish all of its business.

- 3) Sue Berg, from Sen. Chun Oakland's office, is studying different Neighborhood Boards and noted that representatives for elected officials attend most other Board meetings. She expressed her opinion that the meeting is more dynamic and contains a better dialogue if those representatives are present.
- 4) Luria stated that even though he was originally for containing the reports of elected officials, he now feels that the community may have been alienated. He suggested putting elected officials on the agenda about one-half hour into the meeting at a specific time or right after emergency agency reports. Luria noted that elected officials have full agendas and it may be wise to give them scheduled times to appear.
- 5) Chair Canopin assured that all of the concerns are put into the inventory of concerns, which is mailed to all on the mailing list and is available online; community members can receive answers to their questions without waiting for and through the meeting. Chair Canopin stated his intent to keep control over the meeting. Luria inquired if he thought he had more control without the presence of elected officials. Chair Canopin confirmed this.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF A TIME-LIMIT POLICY:** This item was revisited for discussion. Nerney complimented Chair Canopin for bringing order to the meetings and sees many positive benefits to what he's done. However, Nerney commented that these meetings are one of the only places to make the elected officials face their constituents in person and "take the heat". He supported Luria's idea to invite the elected officials to go on early or at a specific time. Nerney sees the reports of elected officials as a possible mechanism to enable participation. Luria also praised Chair Canopin for his work with the Board and expressed his appreciation for the new efficiency in the distribution of information. Chair Canopin noted the opinion of the State Office of Information Practices (OIP) that it may not be legal to allot specific times for agenda items, unless it's noted that they are merely suggested times. Luria mentioned that the Chair can also keep the Board on track during the meeting by giving updates on the time left in the meeting. Chair Canopin synthesized that his main point is for the Board to realize that they can't be held captive to the agenda.

**VACANCIES: OPTION TO DECLARE ONE (1) SEAT VACANT IN SUBDISTRICT 3 –** This item was returned to since there was now a quorum present. **Nerney moved, and Spencer seconded, to declare Rae Gee's seat vacant in Subdistrict 3, which was adopted unanimously, 8-0-0.**

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 164:** Chair Canopin introduced the concurrent resolution, which this Board drafted and approved in original form, requesting DLNR to prohibit all commercial vendors at the Nu'uanu Pali lookout.

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 98 SD-1:** Chair Canopin introduced the concurrent resolution, which this Board drafted and approved in original form, urging the City and County of Honolulu to proceed with caution in reviewing developments on steep hillsides with potential rock-fall hazards.

**PAUOA VALLEY EASTER EGG HUNT:** Aiona reported that it was another successful event this year, especially with the great weather. He imparted his hope that the hunt could be organized a little sooner next year to provide more time to get the word out to the children and families of the neighborhood. Spencer commented that people on Booth Road and up Pacific Heights didn't know the hunt was happening – signs are needed on that side of the valley too. She noted that although more notice is desired, it's illegal to put up signs more than three days before an event. Aiona mentioned the Christmas Parade and suggested it be held on Saturday this year instead of Friday, so that people have more time to get organized. Chair Canopin thanked the offices of Sen. Chun Oakland and Rep. Luke for providing prizes for the Easter egg hunt; he thanked Councilmember Tam's office for providing the eggs and refreshments; he thanked Wilbert Lee and all the other volunteers; and he thanked Aiona for helping out and sharing all the information.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**RATIFICATION OF PRE-ESTABLISHED LOCATION TO HOLD REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS –** Nerney moved, and Aiona seconded to defer this item, which was adopted by unanimous consent. Kurashige pointed out that there are almost no people in the audience here, and maybe more would come if the meetings were held elsewhere; she noted that the Nu'uanu Elementary School has been holding a reservation for a long time and she wants to stop deferring this agenda item. Aiona added that if the Board wants community attendance, then

the Board members themselves need to attend the meetings. Nerney gave his support and stated that the whole Board's presence is needed to discuss the idea of changing the meeting location; he would like the item to remain on the agenda until there is a full Board to discuss it. Chair Canopin contributed that the school will hold the reservation until the Board cancels it. Luria noted that the three vacancies on the Board are hampering the Board's ability to accomplish its business.

**CHAIR & VICE CHAIR'S COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- 1) Spencer detailed that the three-way light at the intersection of Magellan, Iolani and Kamamalu Avenues was finally installed after years of lobbying for it. She asked what happened to Bill 73 (2005), relating to the towing of abandoned vehicles, and Bill 11 (2006), relating to the parking of vehicles.
- 2) Nerney conveyed his discomfort with receiving gifts, especially alcoholic ones at Board meetings. Chair Canopin asked if plain refreshments were acceptable; Nerney affirmed this and stated his objection to Board members receiving gifts.
- 3) Luria has asked the City to do an audit of the disabled and abandoned vehicles and requested it be placed on the inventory of concerns. Chair Canopin will get the answer for next month.
- 4) Kurashige inquired about why Bill 37 (2006), which relates to regulating an interim period development on lots with average grade of 20% or more in Nu'uanu Valley, was deferred and suggested that someone follow its progress. Chair Canopin answered that a lawsuit has been filed and the City Department of Corporation Counsel (COR) has advised the Council not to take any action on the issue. Luria voiced the opinion that COR is covering the politicians so that they don't have to take action on the issue. Spencer added that the filers of the lawsuit were asked to file by the City. Luria requested Chair Canopin to invite a representative from COR to explain the matter to the Board. Kurashige emphasized that the issue is one of public safety and property damage. Spencer asked why all of this information isn't on public record. Nerney disclosed his position as a Board member of the Nu'uanu Valley Association (NVA), who brought suit to seek more information from the City; he contended that COR's advice is retaliatory and provided to cover the politicians. However, the Court did not see fit to order a temporary restraining order (TRO). Nerney will email information on the public hearings, when it's available.
- 5) Spencer related the five to six year campaign to get Lusitana Street repaved and announced that Laverne Higa, Director and Chief Engineer of the City Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM), stated that Lusitana Street would be rehabilitated in the spring of 2006. The scheduling will be done by another department. Rehabilitating a road versus resurfacing: rehabilitation is when they scrape the road all the way down and start anew with the paving. After Lusitana Street is complete, it would be good to move on to Pauoa Road.
- 6) Kurashige recounted that Sen. Chun Oakland's office did help the people of Niniko Place to have their two meetings with the new owner of the Mark's estate, Mr. Douglas Himmelfarb. She reported that he was gracious in the meetings with owners, where his goals were discussed. He is a botanist and plans to restore the old property. The Board is out of the matter now, since it's now a neighbor-to-neighbor issue. Call Sue Berg from Sen. Chun Oakland's office with any questions.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Submitted by:

Rachel M. Glanstein, Neighborhood Assistant

Reviewed by:

Chair Al Canopin, Jr. and Secretary Patt Spencer